



MEMORANDUM

TO: Indiana School Superintendents and Administrators
FROM: Amanda Culhan, Program Coordinator for School Counseling
SUBJECT: National School Counseling Week
DATE: January 26, 2015

Indiana will join the country in celebrating [National School Counseling Week](#), February 2-6, 2015, to recognize the unique contributions of professional school counselors in improving student achievement and preparing all K-12 students to be productive citizens in a global economy. The Indiana Department of Education, Indiana School Counselor Association and Indiana Association for College Admission Counseling encourage schools and parents to take a moment to recognize their local school counselor(s) during National School Counseling Week!

School counselors play a significant role in fostering student aspirations, helping students overcome obstacles to learning, and ensuring that students are college and career ready. To do so, School Counselors provide guidance regarding student choices, which might include school attendance, rigorous courses taken, diploma track selected, and postsecondary and career options pursued.

Elementary School Counselors support Indiana children as they learn to understand school expectations, culture, appropriate behavior ([IC 20-26-5-32](#)), social skills, internet safety ([IC 20-30-5.5-1](#)), basic study skills, goal setting etc. They also play a significant role in career exploration and the awareness of higher education.

Middle and high school counselors help students complete Graduation Plans ([IC 20-30-4](#)), enroll in the 21st Century Scholars Program ([IC 20-33-5-15](#)), select rigorous high school courses (including [Advanced Placement](#) and [Dual Credit](#) courses), and prepare for college and career success.

K-12 school counselors play an important role in supporting a safe learning environment and addressing the academic, social/emotional, and behavioral needs of all students through methods of assessment, prevention, intervention, and referral per [511 IAC 4-1.5](#).

Recognition in 2014

RAMP Award: [124 schools](#) in Indiana, the most in the country, have received the **Recognized ASCA Model Program** Award, demonstrating that they are delivering a comprehensive, data-driven school counseling program. This is the nation's most prestigious award for excellence in school counseling. Eight Indiana schools received this prestigious award for the first time and four schools renewed this award in July, 2014.

Indiana Gold Star Award: Six schools received the first-time Gold Star Award in 2014 demonstrating that they are delivering a comprehensive, data-driven school counseling program. Nine schools renewed their award. [193 schools](#) in Indiana have received the Gold Star Award since its inception in 2004.

Legislation Supporting School Counseling

During the 2015 legislative session, three bills, specific to school counselors, have been proposed. These bills include:

[SB 277 Elementary School Counselors](#)

[SB 271 College and Career Counseling grant](#)

[SB 550 Professional development for school counselors](#)

[HB 1269 Mental health matters](#)

To support any or all of these bills, contact your legislator.

School Counselor Ratios

The most recent available figures from 2014-15 indicate that Indiana's average Counselor/Student ratio was 1:634.

Elementary/Intermediate: 1:1,115 Middle/Jr High 1:462 High 1:365

**The recommended school counselor to student ratio at the national level is 1:250*

A [national survey](#) (last conducted in 2011) indicated that Indiana was reported as having the 6th highest ratio in the US. Indiana's ratio at that time was 1:620, with the national average being 1:471.

National School Counseling Week Resources

[ASCA Resources](#)

[ISCA Resources](#)

For more information contact:

Amanda Culhan, IDOE Program Coordinator for School Counseling, aculhan@doe.in.gov or 317-232-0510

Indiana Department of Education – School Counseling: <http://www.doe.in.gov/schoolcounseling>

American School Counselor Association: www.schoolcounselor.org

Indiana School Counselor Association: <http://www.indianaschoolcounselor.org/>

Indiana Association for College Admission Counseling: www.iacac.net